1   2. (twice amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the current [node identifier] NIC
2   address value includes an attempt to detect the then-current NIC address value.

1   3. (previously amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the attempt to detect the then-current
2   NIC address value is unsuccessful, and further comprising (i) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a
3   stored value containing the result of a past live detection of the then-current NIC address value, referred to
4   as a previously-detected NIC address value; and (ii) transmitting the previously-detected NIC address
5   value.

1   4. (previously canceled)   **OFFICIAL**

1   5. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the NIC address value comprises a sig-
2   nature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

1   6. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the former NIC address value is redun-
2   dantly stored in multiple partitions within the data storage at the node.

1   7. (previously amended) The method of claim 6, wherein (x) each copy of the former NIC ad-
2   dress value is associated with a timestamp, and (y) retrieving the former NIC address value comprises re-
3   trieving the respective copy associated with the most recent timestamp.

1   8. (twice amended) A method, executed by a server node on a network, for recording, in a data-
2   base, asset-management information about a client node, comprising:
3   (a) receiving, [information from the client node, said information including a current
4   node-identification information for the client node that includes (i) a current] from the client node, (1) as-
5   set-management information about the client node, (2) a current address value of a network interface card
6   of the client node, referred to as a current NIC address value, and [(ii)] (3) a former NIC address value for
7   the client node that is equal to the current NIC address value;

8   (b) unsuccessfully attempting to locate, in the database, a record corresponding to the

9   current NIC address value;

10   (c) unsuccessfully attempting to locate, in the database, a record corresponding to the

11   former NIC address value; and

12   [(b)] (d) storing the asset-management information, the current NIC address value, and

13   the former NIC address value in a record in the database associated with the current NIC address value.

14   [node-identification information, the current node-identifier value and the former node-identifier value.]

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1   9. (previously canceled)

1   10. (previously amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the NIC address value comprises a

2   signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

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1   11. (twice amended) A program storage device readable by a processor in the client node of a

2   specified one of claims 1 through 3, 5 through 7, and 21 through [23] 24, and encoding a program of in-

3   structions including instructions for performing the operations recited in the specified claim as being per-

4   formed by the client node.

1   12. (amended) A program storage device readable by a processor in the server node of a specified

2   one of claims 8, [and] 10, and 24 and encoding a program of instructions including instructions for per-

3   forming the operations recited in said specified claim as being performed by the client node.

1   13. (twice amended) In a node on a network, a data store comprising a machine-readable data

2   structure accessible to a processor in the node and containing node-identification information for the client

3   node that includes (i) a current network interface card value for the node, referred to as a NIC address

4   value, and (ii) a former NIC address value.

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1   14. (previously canceled)

15. (previously amended) The data store of claim 13, wherein the NIC address value that constitutes the current node-identifier value includes a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

16. (amended) In a node on a network, a data store comprising:

      (a) a plurality of machine-readable data structures accessible to a processor in the node;

      (b) each said data structure containing node-identification information for the client node that includes (i) a current node-identifier value, and (ii) a former node-identifier value, each said value comprising a network interface card address value, referred to as a NIC address value.

      (c) each said data structure being associated with a timestamp.

17. (canceled)

18. (amended) The data store of claim [17] 16, wherein the NIC address value comprises a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

19. (amended) In a server node on a network. that includes a client node, a machine-readable data structure accessible to a processor in the server node, comprising (i) a current value of a network interface card address for the client node, referred to as a current NIC address value for the client node, [and] (ii) a former NIC address value for the client node, and (iii) asset-management information about the client node.

20. The machine-readable data structure of claim 19, wherein the current NIC address value comprises a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

21. (amended) A method, executed by a node on a network, of transmitting [identifying] asset-management information about the node, the method comprising:

      (a) determining a current node identifier value, where (1) the node identifier value for any particular node in the network is dependent on one or more node-identification attributes of that node including an address value of a network interface card in the node, referred to as a NIC address value, and

6   (2) determining the current node identifier value includes an attempt to detect the then-current values of

7   said one or more node-identification attributes;

8   (b) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a former node identifier value for the node;

9   and

10   (c) transmitting asset-management information about the node together with the current

11   node identifier value and the former node identifier value. --

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1   22. The method of claim 21, wherein the attempt to detect said one or more node-identification at-

2   tributes fails to detect at least one of said node-identification attributes, and further comprising (i) retriev-

3   ing, from a data storage at the node, a stored value containing the result of a past live detection of the said

4   one or more node-identification attributes, referred to as a previously-detected node identifier value; and

5   (ii) transmitting the previously-detected node identifier value.

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1   23. (amended) A method, executed by a node on a network, of transmitting [identifying] asset-

2   management information about the node, the method comprising:

3   (a) attempting but failing to detect a current network interface card address value for the

4   node, referred to as a current NIC address value;

5   (b) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a previously-detected NIC address value;

6   (c) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a stored value of a former NIC address

7   value for the node; and

8   (d) transmitting the asset-management information together with the previously-detected

9   NIC address value and the former NIC address value.

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1   24. (new) A method, executed by a client node and a server node on a network, for recording,

2   in a database, asset-management information about the client node, comprising:

3   (a) the client node (1) determining a current address value of a network interface card in

4   the node, referred to as a NIC address value, (2) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a former NIC

5   address value for the node, and (3) transmitting to the server node the asset-management information, the

6   current NIC address value, and the former NIC address value;

7   (b) the server node (1) unsuccessfully attempting to locate, in the database, a record cor-

8   responding to the current NIC address value, (2) locating, in the database, a record corresponding to the

9   former NIC address value, (3) recording the asset-management information in said record, and (4) updating

10   the record to correspond to the current NIC address instead of to the former NIC address value. --